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Editorial.—THE AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION held its first annual meeting in Cincinnati, April 25–29. With Dr. John A. Warder as President, the convention could not well help being one of great interest.

MR. THOMAS MEEHAN writes that the European snowdrop flowered near Philadelphia on the 1st of April this year, and that *Fritillaria pudica*, within a few feet of it, was only four days after.

JOSEPH DECAISNE, the most eminent botanist in France, the director of the *Jardin des Plantes* ever since the death of Mirbel, the Professor of Culture in the Museum of Natural History at Paris for more than forty years, died on the 8th of February, 1882, in the 75th year of his age.

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED information of the death of Mr. William H. Leggett, for so long a time the editor of the *Torrey Bulletin*. He died April 11th and in the absence of particulars we will await the notice which will appear in the journal with which he has been so honorably connected.

MR. THOMAS HOWELL, of Sauvie's Island, Oregon, has published a catalogue of the plants of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, including the mosses. He offers to furnish botanists their desiderata at ten cents, and full sets at five cents per species. Mr. Howell's plants have proved very satisfactory.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE at Lansing, Michigan, seems to have quite an active Natural History Society, judging from accounts of it given in *The College Speculum*. Prof. W. J. Beal, of course, contributes largely to the botanical interest, but the best of it is that he is ably assisted not only by professors but by students.

PART V, OF DR. BRAITHWAITE'S British Moss-Flora, published at the close of the last year, has come to hand. It contains *Leucobryum* and a part of the *Dicranaceæ*. Twenty-five species are beautifully figured on the three plates. This work is specially recommended to American botanists. Even if we get our long hoped-for Manual, we shall still need an illustrated work like this.

PROF. C. E. BESSEY has recently met with a severe loss which calls forth the sympathies of his many botanical friends. On April

8th a tornado struck North Hall of Iowa Agricultural College, carrying off the roof and crushing in the botanical laboratory, botanical lecture room, and the room in which were the Professor's library, cabinet and herbarium. His work is now carried on in another building. The herbarium is saved in packages, but the case is still in the wrecked building, exposed to rains and storms. The library was mostly saved, but badly hurt by rain, lime and crushing. The building is to be repaired soon and the Professor expects to be back in his old quarters by midsummer.

MR. VOLNEY RATTAN has published a popular "California Flora," or "Manual of Botany for Beginners," which has just appeared in a third edition, revised and enlarged. It contains some introductory lessons and condensed descriptions of plants with conspicuous flowers, numbering something over 600. The most difficult orders, such as *Umbelliferæ*, *Compositæ*, etc., are not described, being too difficult for beginners. The book seems a most excellent one for its purpose, and well calculated to be a stimulus to the study of botany in the schools of California. Many a book of this kind has come from the necessities of an enterprising teacher, for our specialists will not always attend to the wants of beginners.

THE GREAT COLLECTIONS of the late Professor E. Fries, are now offered for sale by his heirs. They consist of an herbarium of extra-Scandinavian phanerogams of about 40,000 species; an herbarium of Sandinavian phanerogams, complete and containing the types of Prof. Fries' works on the Flora of Scandinavia; a collection of fungi, containing original specimens of Prof. Fries' own species and of those of almost all other mycologists in this century; a collection of about 1,500 drawings of fungi, most of which are colored; a collection of mosses; a collection of algæ; *exsiccata* published by many authors. All these collections have been well taken care of, and the phanerogams are mounted upon fine white paper. They will be sold undivided or in families or genera, and purchasers should address Th. M. Fries, Upsala, Sweden, before the end of May, stating the price offered per hundred.

REV. A. B. HERVEY, of Taunton, Mass., has prepared some exceedingly handsome slides of marine algæ. They are divided into two sets of six each. Set 1 shows the characteristic fruit of each of the 6 groups into which the *Florideæ* or red algæ naturally divide. Set 2 shows 3 different forms of the asexual spores of the *Florideæ*, and the sexual fruit of the lower algæ, viz: the *Cryptophyceæ*, *Zoosporeæ*, *Oosporeæ*. The writer must acknowledge that these slides came nearer filling a "felt want" in his laboratory, than any appliance has done for many a day. Heretofore his students had to exercise a large degree of faith in regard to the reproductive parts of these low and very interesting forms, but now seeing strengthens both belief and interest. As an educational series these slides are invaluable, and no laboratory or lecture room can afford

to be without them for they really illustrate every important feature of the reproductive machinery of the algæ. Either set costs \$3.00, both together \$5.00, with full explanatory text.

THE WRITER CONFESSES a delinquency which he wishes to correct both in himself and his botanical friends. We have an Association known as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, where workers in all departments of science are in the habit of meeting to have most pleasant and profitable intercourse. Zoologists, geologists, chemists and mathematicians flock to it in great numbers, but botanists are both few in number and modest in spirit. Where are the possessors of those long lists of names which fill page after page of our directories? There is now a section of biology where botany will have a fair chance, and botanists should avail themselves of this opportunity of becoming acquainted with each other. The next meeting will be held in Montreal, August 23d, as attractive a place for meeting as could well be imagined. The writer expects to be there, he is ashamed to say for the first time, and hopes to make hosts of botanical acquaintances. He does not offer his presence as an inducement for any one to attend, but simply to assure his readers that he intends to follow his own advice. Let us begin thus early to lay our plans for making the botanical subsection a very prominent feature of the next meeting. Go prepared not only to see something but to say something.

CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN died April 20, 1882. Just as we go to press this telegram has been received from London, accompanied by no particulars. He was born February 12, 1809, and the history of his long life is the common property of all intelligent people. Seldom has there been a life more busy or more fruitful, for it must be conceded that his powers of observation were phenomenal. His name has become so much a part of modern biology that it can never cease to be a familiar one. A great "path-breaker," many have followed in his footsteps and he had the good fortune to live long enough to see his work properly appreciated. It is almost needless to name his contributions to botany, for his books are in every library. Those with botanical subjects are as follows: "Fertilization of Orchids," "Insectivorous Plants," "Climbing Plants," "The Effect of Cross- and Self-Fertilization in the Vegetable Kingdom," and "Different Forms of Flowers in Plants of the same Species." His last book was upon the "Effect of the Earth-Worm on Vegetable Mould."

We may expect a notice in some degree worthy of the man from the pen of him who of all in this country knew him best, and with whom his name is so pleasantly associated in that delightful book, "Darwiniana."

BOTANICAL NECROLOGY for 1880, 1881 and thus far in 1882, as given in the *American Journal of Science* for April includes the following names:

Gen. Wm. Munro died near Taunton, England, Jan 29, 1880, at the age of 64.

Coe F. Austin, Closter, N. J., died March 18, 1880, at the age of 49.

Wm. Philip Schimper died March 20, 1880, at the age of 72.

Nils J. Andersson died at Stockholm, March 27, 1880, at the age of 59.

Dominique Alexandre Godron died at Nancy, August 16, 1880, at the age of 73.

S. B. Mead, Augusta, Ill., died November 11, 1880, at the age of 81.

W. Lauder Lindsay died November, 1880, at the age of 52.

Ernst Hampe died November 23, 1880, at the age of 85.

Alphonso Wood, West Farms, N. Y., died Jan. 4, 1881, at the age of 70.

Gottlieb Ludwig Rabenhorst died near Meissen, in Saxony, April 24, 1881, at the age of 74.

Matthias Jacob Schleiden died at Frankfort on the Maine, June 23, 1881, at the age of 77.

Theodore Schwann died at Liege, Belgium, early in the present year, at the age of 70.

Joseph Decaisne died at Paris, February 8, 1882, at the age of 74.

Thomas Potts James died at Cambridge, Mass., February 22, 1882, at the age of 78.

Wm. H. Leggett died in N. Y. City, April 11, 1882.

Charles Robert Darwin died April 20, 1882, at the age of 73.

The Genus *Isoetes*; by Dr. George Engelmann.—This is a pamphlet of 33 pages from the Transactions of the St. Louis Academy, Vol. IV, No. 2, and was read in February of this year. This insignificant genus was for a long time ignored by botanists and until thirty or forty years ago, the few specimens that were collected were referred to *I. lacustris*. Of course a genus that was attractive to no one else was just the one for Dr. Engelmann to study and the result is that we now wonder why so interesting a genus was not studied long ago. At least this pamphlet will spur us all to activity and its author will begin to hear frequently of more *Isoetes*. This paper is remarkable for its completeness, containing all the information pertaining to the genus that can be given at the present time, though, to be sure, the literature of the subject has not yet become very extensive. First the author gives the history of the genus in North America, giving a complete list of the discoveries of the various species, from that of Pursh in 1806 (?) to that of the author and Mr. Pringle in 1881. Under the same heading is included a list of publications in reference to the genus.

Then follows an account of the morphology and biological elements of the members of this genus, the simplest vascular plants